

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, September 24, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Hayward McNeill, and Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes – Jerry Lubin

**The minutes for the month of July 23, 2009 were approved
(Wolff/Gasco)**

IV. Chair's Report – Jerry Lubin

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights – George Caballero,
Commissioner

- George Caballero reported meeting highlights from the September 8, 2009 Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Caballero plans to meet with service providers to find out how they are dealing with the demand to increase older adult services. He will be meeting with university deans to find out their plans to interest students to pursue geriatric careers.
- Chair Lubin proposed a question to Dr. Shaner regarding Greg Thompsons' request for data on the number of people who have both physical and mental disabilities. Dr. Shaner stated the Clinical Policy Committee and DMH are also concerned about gathering data for this population. The difficulty is in getting data that impacts both issues combined.
- Dr. Sam Chan presented his program Birth-to-Five at the meeting; Dr. Chan represented the Children, Youth and Family Bureau.

- DMH Interns will now be paid stipends instead of a salary. They also will need to commit to a service agreement at the directly operated clinics for two years. There are also opportunities available for student workers in college to gain social work experience.
- A discussion took place on major DMH conference dates that conflict with the Commission meetings. Larry Gasco stated he is on the planning committee for the Latino conference; next year he will request that Commission be given a room to conduct the Commission meeting and attend the conference.

MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting – The meeting was held September 8, 2009. The group discussed issues involving Dr. Southard’s proposal to develop a new Strategic Plan. Each SAAC, as well as all other stakeholders, will participate in developing the plan however; the deadlines requested by the Department are tight. DMH suggested the group review the last strategic plan because many services have not changed.

V. Commissioners’ Reports

Commissioner Sosa – Carlos Sosa reported the WET (Workforce, Education, and Training) program plus three subcommittee groups are reviewing policies to clarify the language understood by everyone so that there a consistency in the information given out by the group. However, Dennis Murata, Program Support Bureau Deputy is pushing for a conclusion to move to the next level. Three incentives are being discussed, stipends, careers ladders, and partnerships. Mr. Sosa will update the Commission in the following months.

Mr. Sosa reported psychiatric services have increased in Service Area 3 over the past several months. Based on a survey conducted at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, the 24 hour trauma center experienced a 36% increase in psychiatric emergencies with social worker interventions. Eighty-four percent of the increase occurred between the hours of 4 pm and 12 am. In the month of June 214 cases were opened, in July 199 cases were opened. The increase reflects a lack of walk-in services for mental health.

Commissioner Brody – Lana Brody met with Jim Allen and Kathy Daly regarding recidivism and women in the jails. Ms. Brody will continue to update the Commission on the issue.

Commissioner Sofro – Victoria Sofro reported the CEO Quality and Productivity Commission recognizes programs for innovation and cost savings. The Department was acknowledged by the Quality and

Productivity Awards committee for 13 programs; Connections for Life received recognition for Innovation.

Ms. Sofro will meet with Kecia McDaniel, Occupational Therapy Supervisor to work on a new method to gather statistics. They are reviewing approximately 100 supported education/employment models. Ms. Sofro will continue to update the Commission of the results.

Commissioner Gasco – Larry Gasco visited SAAC 6 meeting on September 17, 2009. Mr. Gasco stated the group is energetic; they require high community and consumer involvement. He acknowledged the group for bringing the PEI plan issues to the attention of the Commission. The African-American Conference did not take place this year. Mr. Gasco asked the SAAC to please work toward having a conference next year.

Commissioner Huffman – Delores Huffman emphasize the progress of two MHSA Housing projects. In September 2009, seven units for TAY (transition age youth) residents funded by MHSA opened. In December 2009, 25 additional single adult units funded by MHSA dollars will open. Ms. Huffman submitted the following housing report update:

MHSA Housing Program

As of May 28, 2009, the Department determined that it was in receipt of a sufficient number of Letters of Interest for proposed projects to exhaust the current \$115 million allocation for the Los Angeles County MHSA Housing Program; therefore, the Expression of Interest was suspended. Any future notification of funding will be made available on the DMH website.

Thirty projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of September 22, 2009 is shown below:

Initiating Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy World Society
- New Genesis Apartments
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Step Up on Hollywood
- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Finalizing Service Plan for Posting

- KIWA Apartments
- NoHo Senior Villas
- PWC Family Housing
- Parker Hotel
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project

Technical Submission under Review

- Menlo Family Housing
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- Horizon Apartments

Application Submitted to the State

- Osborne Place Apartments
- Epworth Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments

Approved for Funding by the State

- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens
- Charles Cobb Apartments

For various reasons, over the last couple of months some project sponsors have been compelled to withdraw their funding proposals. The Department will be seeking recommendations from the MHSAs Housing Advisory Board about how to utilize the newly uncommitted funds.

Housing Trust Fund

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund awardees, nine projects are in operation as of September 22, 2009. The remaining three projects include Mini Twelve Step, slated to open in winter 2011, and Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Downtown Women's Center, both slated to open in fall 2010.

On August 25, 2009, a Request for Information (RFI) was released to determine if there were any potential contractors with demonstrated capability and interest in providing on-site supportive services in permanent supportive housing or shared housing projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The Department accepted completed questionnaires to the RFI on a continuous basis from August 25 through September 15, 2009. As of September 15, 2009, the Department was in receipt of 70 completed questionnaires.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding**

The Department continues to seek potential opportunities to work with local cities and governments who have received NSP funding to leverage this funding with MHSAs Housing Program funding.

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding**

The Department was recently awarded \$51,051 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program National Board; federal stimulus funding administered at a local level by the Los Angeles County United Way. The funding is being utilized to provide rental and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers in Service Areas 2, 4, and 6 who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the recession.

Ms. Huffman reported the Pearl Ella Johnson Wellness Center has reopened under the Exodus Recovery Agency, 11905 S. Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA. Ms. Huffman also announced NAMI Urban LA will start classes in Service Area 6.

Commissioner Askins – Dr. Howard Askins reported there are two clinical snapshot reports available at the meeting today. Reports for the month of June and July are available because there was no Commission meeting in August and June 30, 2009 ended the fiscal year. Dr. Askins commended the work of the committee responsible for the clinical report under the direction of Dr. Shaner and thanked Dr. Shaner for great leadership.

Commissioner Rabens – Ilean Rabens announced mental health brings art into the juvenile camps and halls. The Arts SMART program

will be participating in two camps at the Challenger facility and Camp Scott and Scudder. Camp Scott and Scudder are for girls. Camp Scudder plans to formulate a girl's choir and invite the girls from Camp Scott. Artist from the California Institute of Arts in Santa Clarita will provide activities for the program.

Commissioner Baron – Frank Baron thanked Ms. Huffman for announcing the NAMI Walk in Santa Monica at the pier.

Mr. Baron reported, he attended the NAMI California Conference in Torrance. Attendance was very good and he had the opportunity to experience Nathaniel Ayers play the violin. A documentary is being produced based on Mr. Ayers' story but does not feature Mr. Ayers. Stella March received The Distinguished Service Award from NAMI which is the national highest honor. Ms. March was recognized for exceptional efforts nationwide to support NAMI goals.

Mr. Baron also announced the sudden passing of Kymberli Kercher-Smith. Ms. Smith was the secretary of the CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions) who played an essential role in planning the quarterly meetings. Mr. Baron recommended that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Ms. Kercher-Smith.

VI. **Departmental Report** - Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director, discussed the following:

Dr. Kay congratulated Victoria Sofro for her efforts toward Connections for Life receiving the CEO Quality and Productivity award. Dr. Kay's report continued as follows:

- **DMH Administrative Deputy** – Dr. Kay introduced Margo Morales, newly appointed Administrative Deputy. Ms. Morales has an extensive background and experience in various county departments such as Chief Executive Office, Parks and Recreation, and Safety Police; she brings lots of energy to the department.

Dr. Kay reported on several budget issues the department is currently addressing due to the economic downturn. The state imposed a \$130 million dollar decrease in indigent funding in addition reduced revenue from taxes and other cuts the following strategies have been implemented:

- **Re-Design Mental Health Care** – DMH is dedicated to maintaining a commitment to treat unfunded individuals and families who need mental health services. The department is drafting a plan redesign mental health care to treat unfunded

clients. The plan involves two MHSAs, Community Services and Supports and Prevention and Early Intervention to focus the following program components:

- Intensive acute services in each service area
- Enhanced crisis services not for ongoing case management
- Field Capable Clinical Services
- Wellness/Client Run Centers enhancement
- Full Service Partnerships

- **Decrease in contract amounts.** Contract agencies were approved to use unspent dollars over a 2-year period. The department is requesting the contract agencies to submit an “impact statement” how dollars will be spent. Dr. Kay will provide the information to the Commission when it becomes available.
- **Fee-For-Service.** The department has increased its fee-for-service monitoring to identify a \$2 million curtailment.
- **Changes in Delivery of Services** – Additional directly operated services that qualify for MHSAs programs were transferred to MHSAs funding.
- **Update on PMRT** – The department originally proposed to reduce PMRT hours to offset budget curtailment. Due to community opposition that decision has been reversed. PMRT will be available 24/7.

Transfer of Alcohol and Drug Program Administration to DMH

– The final report was completed by the Chief Executive Officer to review of proposal to transfer Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) to DMH. The County Executive Director recommended s ADPA remains with Department of Public Health. There is no evident advantage to merging the two departments either budgetarily or programmatically. The CEO recommended both departments move forward to execute the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to collaborate integrated services.

Strategic Plan Process – The process will involve researching the last strategic plan process to assess where the department is headed. Resources are not available to currently develop a vision or document philosophical principles. Once the department establishes overarching goals and strategies are completed, we will request feedback from all stakeholders hoping to wrap up the process by fiscal years end. The intent is to present the plan at the department’s 50th year celebration.

MHSA Plan Update – Dr. Rod Shaner briefly commented on the new MHSA plan Innovations. The plan addresses vision; it is not only good but includes undiscovered products that are creative and ingenious.

The department has two year to complete the plan that involves \$34 million. Three populations will be the focus of the plan:

- Uninsured
- Homeless
- Underrepresented population

Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal

Ms. Rajlal discussed information that was reported on the 2009 state legislative scoreboard.

Negative Budget Impact:

- Reduction in managed care payments to counties
- IMD cost of living increase
- IMD ancillaries for physical health a county expense

Positive Budget Impact:

- Healthy Family funding reinstated – affects approximately 80,000 children

Pending Assembly Bills

- AB 1383 – If passed imposes a fee for hospitals.
- AB 244 – If passed will expand mental health parity to cover all DSM diagnosis
- AB 1571 – If passed would authorize a study of veterans with mental health needs; unclear how many veterans need care.

VII. Special Presentation – Countywide Older Adult Mental Health Services Update

The following were present to discuss the presentation topic:

Carlotta Childs Seagle, LCSW, Deputy Director

Kathleen Kerrigan, RN, LCSW

James Cunningham, PhD

Sarah Gelberd, MD

Introductions and acknowledgements were expressed among the Older Adult program staff and the Commissioners. The Countywide Older Adults presentation provided an overview of the current and projected needs, full service partnerships and field capable clinical services transformation, consultation teams and collaborations, and MHSA PEI.

Current and Projected Needs - In 2006 there were approximately 1.6 million older adults. This population continues to increase and is expected to double by 2030. Implementing the following strategies will meet the demand:

- Increase funding opportunities, access to services, and public awareness
- Partner with families and communities,
- Integrate and coordinate services, and
- Best practices for treatment

Transformation Approach

- Full Service Partnerships
High intensity mental health services for age 60 and above. Approximately 417 clients served since program inception in fiscal year 2006/07.
As of August 2009, 267 authorized clients
- Field Capable Clinical Services
Services are provided in the community to a unique client base—reduces stigma and services immobile clients. Services are provided by multidisciplinary teams, and primary care and social services collaborations.
Approximately 113 older adults served

Consultation Teams and Collaborations

- Consultation Teams – guidance from clinical staff, seminars and training at UCLA, consultation on Public Guardian cases
- Co-Location Programs
GENESIS – Strengthen interagency partnerships and coordination of services. Target population is victims or at risk of abuse/neglect. Program provides linkages, referrals, assessment, treatment planning and intervention. A cross-training component with law enforcement and other agencies is also integrated.
Forensic Center – Consortium with DHS, Adult Protective Services, USC Gerontology/Neuropsychologist, witness victim assistance program, law enforcement, Public Guardian

MHSA PEI

- Suicide prevention component relevant to older adults that will decrease the number of suicides of older adults who visit primary care physicians.
 - 24 hour hotline
 - Specialist teams
 - Healthcare partners
 - Trauma Recovery Services
 - Early Care and Support for Older Adults

VIII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 2 – Robert Burkenheim reported Consumer Directories for each service area are presently being reviewed at their SAAC meetings. Ms. Burkenheim also announced the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Inc, will be celebrating 40 years at the gala event.

SAAC 6 – Belanie Brown stated the SAAC looks forward to more collaboration among providers and community leaders in developing the MHSA innovation plan. The service area faith-based consortium has grown with small and large churches; this group is a part of the SAAC membership.

IX. Public Comments –

- Dr. Benita P. Council – Seeks assistance/advice for son who has a mental illness and is incarcerated in Twin Towers.
- Robert Cote SA 4 – Commented on the older adult presentation and spoke on a personal issue. Shared concerns to help raise funds to pay for conference registration fees to mitigate the cost of developing a conference.

X. Meeting Adjourned – In memory of Ms. Kymberli Kercher-Smith, California Local Mental Health Board and Commission (CALMHBC) Secretary

XI. Next Meeting Information –

Thursday, October 22, 2009
Noon – 2:30 pm
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 739
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need additional information

Ch/ch